Thursday, January 26, 2012

#1 FREE DAILY NEWSPAPER IN CENTER CITY

WHAM! BAM! THANK YOU, HAMM! {page 13}

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PHILADELPHIA

# Future of city schools called into question

- Constant fiscal instability since last summer raises red flags, city controller says
- Debt, payroll obligations still being paid, for now
- Massive deficits remain {page 02}

PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

**Funeral.** Paterno

▶ Thousands of onlookers packed the path of Joe Paterno's last trip by Beaver Stadium following his funeral yesterday afternoon.

With so many people on the streets of State College yesterday, one would have thought it was gameday for Penn State football. But instead of rowdy crowds, the mood was somber and eyes were tear-filled as Happy Valley held a funeral for the greatest Nittany Lion of all. {page 02}

Metropolitik

## Obama talks a good game, but let's get real

- Analysis of Tuesday night's State of the Union address reveals trademark optimism but long road ahead {page 08}

## No conservator anymore?

Britney Spears may be able to make it through life without holding daddy's hand {page 09}

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▶ Procession was packed.

# Wall of dark blue honors fallen Lion

Thousands gathered yesterday morning at Penn State to say their last goodbyes to fallen coach Joe Paterno, with family, friends and former players attending a private funeral service afterwards.

Plenty of tears dropped in his honor by fans who came from across the state and country on day two of his public memorial. The last day will be today. The service is free to the public — but, characteristic of sports events, all the free tickets are gone, swooped up in a few minutes Tuesday.

Paterno's wife Sue was among the first to arrive for his funeral at 2 p.m., according to reports.

"He realized an athlete could be a student, and a student could be an athlete," Jim McClure, a Penn State football season ticketholder for 39 years, told Reuters yesterday after paying his tributes to the dead coach.

The memorial today will begin in the Bryce Jordan Center, the campus basketball arena Many current players, former players and season ticket holders will come to pay their respects. Classes have already been cancelled by the school and some of the professors so the students can attend the memorial. ● MALIK CHARLTON

## In the news

### New crime plan from Mayor Nutter

Mayor Michael Nutter and Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey today will discuss their plan to address violence this year at a press conference at Strawberry Mansion High School. The plan is expected to include placing more officers on patrol in certain neighborhoods. There have been 30 murders this year, slightly ahead of the 2007 pace when more than 400 were murdered. ● METRO

## In the news

### College merger

The Camden branch of New Jersey's Rutgers University would merge with another state institution, Rowan University, under a plan announced by Gov. Chris Christie yesterday. The plan would also eliminate the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey by merging part of it with Rowan and another school in Newark.

### Equality Forum dates set for May

**CENTER CITY.** The 20th annual Equality Forum, one of the country's largest summits on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual rights, will be held May 3-6 and feature officials from Israel, organizers announced yesterday.

"Equality Forum 2012 ... celebrates the transformation from a groundbreaking conference that focused on an emerging civil rights movement into the annual Equality Forum recognized as the premier annual national and international LGBT summit," executive director Malcolm Lazin said. ● METRO

### AC beaches: Must avoid

**NEW JERSEY.** Cliffs of sand up to 17 feet high line Atlantic City's wide beaches, according to city officials, who said they have temporarily blocked access to parts of the shoreline to protect unsuspecting visitors.

The unusually steep walls are part of an ongoing fight to prevent erosion, officials said. Federal engineers will soon begin work to get the beaches ready by summer. ● METRO

# Schools out forever? Fiscal future in doubt

## ◐ City Controller says he'll need proof to contrary from school district before he thinks they will make it out of debt ◐ Huge deficit again looms

BIKARD LABMA/METRO

▶ School Reform Commission chair has his hands full with another massive financial deficit predicted for next year.

City Controller Alan Butkovitz raised questions yesterday about the district's future financial viability in a letter to the Philadelphia School District's new chief recovery officer, Tom Knudsen.

The letter is part of an audit by Butkovitz of the district's financial statements. In it, he asked whether the district had the authority to make cuts necessary to close its $61 million deficit and asked how it planned to address a $269 million "structural deficit" for next year that could grow larger.

"Because the conditions raise serious concerns about the district's continued viability, it is imperative that the school district explain to us, as quickly as possible, how they plan to deal with the adverse effects of the conditions we outlined," Butkovitz says in the letter.

The district responded by saying it will address all of the controller's concerns and that it does have the authority to implement the gap-closing measures.

"It is important to note that there has been no finding that the district cannot continue as a 'going concern.' The district continues to meet both its debt service obligations and payroll," the district's statement reads.

Knudsen was appointed last week to help pare down the district's expenses. He will work through June for $150,000.

The district has made more than $460 million in reductions since September, but has been stymied by lower revenue and less-than-expected savings from union contracts. The remaining options are all bleak, such as drastic cuts to school police and the elimination of spring sports and gifted programs.

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# Mental health training for residents

**PHILADELPHIA.** City officials today will announce a free, citywide program to train municipal employees and residents in mental health first aid.

"Mental Health First Aid" originated in Australia and came to the United States in 2008. Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., are the first major metropolitan cities in the U.S. to implement the program on a large scale, according to city health officials.

"Most people understand physical first aid. If you get cut, almost everyone knows you put pressure on the cut to stop the bleeding," said Arthur Evans, director of the city's Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services. "Those kinds of things are widely understood in the community. What we're trying to do is a similar thing for mental health."

Training starts with public safety employees on Friday. For those interested in being certified as instructors, training will start in February, and training for the general public will start in June, Evans said. The training will be free, paid for by a grant. ● METRO/SDL

**300K**

**Philadelphians who have dealt with or are dealing with a mental health crisis, based on national statistics. The hope is to teach people how to recognize and respond to an individual experiencing a mental health crisis.**

# City Council newbies set to begin

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Councilman Johnson

Today's first City Council session of 2012 will be marked by an infusion of new blood, with six new members joining the fray and Councilman Darrell Clarke taking the helm as president.

"This is the largest class of freshman councilmembers in anybody's memory, so I think they'll bring energy and new ideas to City Council," said Zack Stalberg of political watchdog Committee of Seventy.

But don't expect the freshman members to have a bond like 2008's class of Councilmembers Maria Quinones Sanchez, Bill Green and Curtis Jones Jr., who became so tight during training sessions — which discuss ethics and legislative process — that they often voted together to effect change.

The three were all members of the same political party and were largely expected to win, incoming Councilman David Oh pointed out. This year's election was hotly contested and extremely close, so, in some cases, several hopefuls for each seat were invited to participate in the training classes. "I think that took away from the opportunity for a group to coalesce," Oh said.

But Councilmen Kenyatta Johnson and Bobby Henon are optimistic about working together.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Councilman Henon

"Without question, there's a bond between the six of us who are coming in," Henon said. "But we have not forged any commitments to vote as a bloc — we all have different districts with different interests."

"We will have to see," Johnson said. "We all have a working relationship. A lot of us went through the same courses that the former three members went through and I'm pretty sure when issues are germane to the city, all of the districts will work together."

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## Freshman ambitions

Though Henon is the only councilmember who plans to introduce legislation today, all of the newcomers have agendas.

Henon said he will introduce some district-related zoning resolutions and a resolution to review the city's information technology systems, which he says are out of date.

Johnson plans to establish two task forces: a 'Peace Not Guns' task force to reduce gun violence through a partnership between family court, the school district and the Department of Human Services and a 'Jobs and Career' task force.

Oh plans to prioritize job creation, crime reduction and sustainable educational opportunities in his first year, basing legislation on research and objective data. METRO

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# Pa. ranks high again for its black homicide victim rate

Pennsylvania ranks third among U.S. states in the rate of black homicide victims, according to an analysis released today by the Violence Policy Center.

The report analyzes FBI data from 2009, the most recent data available. In Pennsylvania, there were 28.3 black homicide victims per 100,000 people. The only states with higher rates were Missouri at 34.72 and Michigan with a rate of 30.21.

In 2008, Pennsylvania ranked second on the list with a rate of 31.05.

"Every year, nearly 1,200 Pennsylvanians lose their lives to gun violence. Almost half of those deaths are murders," Max Nacheman, executive director of CeaseFirePA, said in a news release. "We know that many of those murders are committed by someone using an illegal gun. This study by the VPC only gives greater depth to those terrible statistics, uncovering evidence to show that entire communities are being devastated by gun violence."

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

**17.9**
**Homicide rate for black victims in the United States per 100,000. The overall national homicide rate was 4.76, and the national homicide rate for whites was 2.92.**

## Guns often are involved

As in previous years, most of the homicides from the 2009 data were a result of guns. In Pennsylvania, of the homicides where the weapon could be determined, 85 percent of black victims were killed with guns.

"It's no mystery where these guns are coming from — theft, straw purchases, trafficking," Nacheman said. "It takes proactive measures to tackle these sources. If we can reduce the supply of illegal guns, we can reduce the number of lives lost each year to gun violence."

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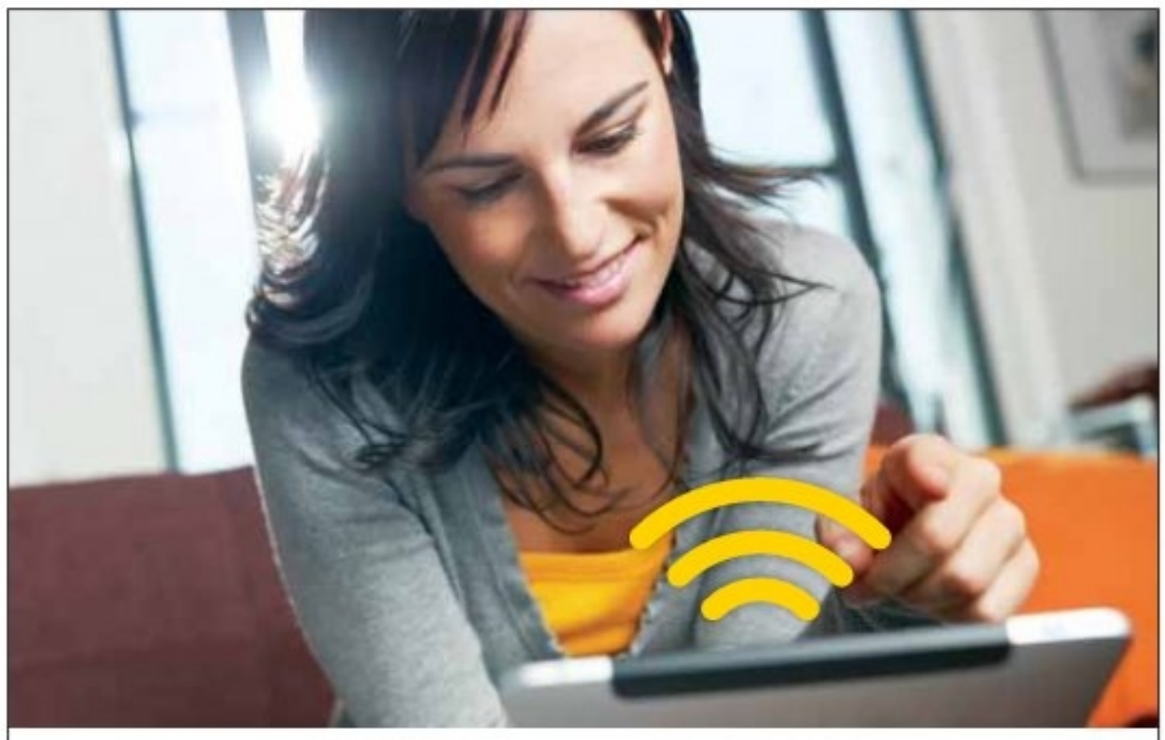

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# Billionaires split over Obama SOTU

The rich and powerful were divided at their annual huddle yesterday regarding Barack Obama's threat to raise their taxes, with some saying it could hurt growth, but others arguing he was right to address capitalism's imbalances.

The State of the Union was delivered on the eve of World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, which found many of the world's titans of industry and politics in reflective mood, focusing on whether capitalism needs to be more fair to survive.

"I happen to be one of the billionaires who believe that the rich do need to pay more taxes and I do support the Obama program in that respect," investor George Soros said in Davos.

But other Davos regulars don't like being in the president's crosshairs.

**"I happen to be one of the billionaires who believe that the rich do need to pay more taxes and I do support the Obama program in that respect."**
**GEORGE SOROS, INVESTOR**

"I don't think any presidential election in the history of America has been won on the politics of envy and I think if anything it divides the country more than unites it," said John Studzinski, senior managing director of investment and advisory firm Blackstone Group. **REUTERS**

▶ George Soros, chairman of Soros Fund Management, speaks to the media yesterday at the Swiss resort of Davos.

GETTY IMAGES

# US special forces rescue two Somalia hostages

U.S. special forces swooped into Somalia yesterday and rescued an American and a Dane after a killing their nine kidnappers, in a rare raid into the Horn of Africa nation to free foreign captives.

American Jessica Buchanan, 32, and Poul Hagen Thisted, 60, of Denmark, humanitarian aid workers for a demining group, had been kidnapped from the town of Galkayo in the semi-autonomous Galmudug region in October.

"This is yet another message to the world that the United States of America will stand strongly against any threats to our people," U.S. President Barack Obama said in a statement.

The rescue team included forces hailing from the same elite Navy SEAL unit that killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden last year in a raid on his compound in Pakistan, a U.S. official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

**"This is yet another message to the world that the United States of America will stand strongly against any threats to our people."**
**PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA**

**REUTERS**

▶ Rupert Murdoch

## Murdoch music startup is bankrupt before launch

Beyond Oblivion, a digital music startup backed by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. and investment bank Allen & Co. Director Stanley Shuman has filed for bankruptcy protection after spending millions of dollars building a service that never saw the light of day.

Beyond Oblivion owed creditors between $100 million and $500 million, with estimated assets of less than $10 million, according to a Chapter 11 filing at Bankruptcy Court. **REUTERS**

## Giffords quits for recovery

**WASHINGTON.** Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, gravely wounded a year ago in a deadly Tucson, Ariz., shooting spree, submitted her resignation from Congress yesterday to focus on her recovery.

Her resignation went into effect at the end of the day yesterday.
**REUTERS**

## Man had gun at home of W.

A man detained outside the home of former President George W. Bush had a weapon in his car, but was released after questioning on Tuesday, a U.S. Secret Service spokesman said yesterday.

Spokesman Ed Donovan said the man, who was not identified, told agents and Dallas police that he was spiritually told to pick up a package at the Bush home. He had a permit to carry a gun, which was found in his vehicle, Donovan said.
**REUTERS**

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# State of the Union: Optimistic pablum

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**BRAYDEN SIMMS**

POLITICAL REALISM FOR THE URBAN PROLETARIAT

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SAUL LOEB-POOL/GETTY IMAGES

▶ President Barack Obama spoke for the rights of the 99 percent, but is his rhetoric an assortment of impossibly empty promises?

President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech on Tuesday was, as many have pointed out, full of bombastic campaign rhetoric — which makes total sense, as that's pretty much the point. Obama did say a lot of stuff worthy of support: Talk of tax reform and education investment is a step in the right direction. Of course, any initiative more ambitious than a routine debt limit authorization may have significant trouble getting through Congress, but it's nice to pretend. Speaking of pretend, we fact check the president:

*Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.*

▶ **Military analogy.** Obama bookends his policy proposals and congressional critiques with a glorification of American military efficiency. Praising advancement in the U.S. war on terror, Obama lauds the "courage, selflessness, and teamwork of America's armed forces," saying civilians could benefit "if we followed their example."
**Reality:** U.S. citizens are not members of an elite fighting unit. Cooperation is nice, but it's insane to project our rigid, hierarchical military structure onto a democracy where everyone has a right to individuality. Obama also overstates gains in Afghanistan and Iraq, where historic sectarian divisions threaten to put the lie to trillions in wasteful military expenditures.

▶ **Financial industry.** The president claims to have put "in place new rules to hold Wall Street accountable, so a crisis like that never happens again." And later says he "will not go back to the days when Wall Street was allowed to play by its own set of rules."
**Reality:** Legislators have not gone nearly far enough to ensure that we don't suffer another financial crisis down the line. This shouldn't be terribly surprising due to a deadly pair of conditions: the disinclination among most politicians to upset the apple cart and legislate against the interests of their Wall Street donors; and, perhaps more inflammatory, the irrational trust bestowed upon financial industry veterans — who, under Obama as under previous presidents, hold high advisory roles allowing them to manipulate reform law. (The much-ballyhooed Dodd-Frank legislation naturally ignores the structural causes of 2008's collapse.)

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▶ **Deficit reduction.** "When it comes to the deficit, we've already agreed to more than $2 trillion in cuts and savings. But we need to do more."
**Reality:** Contrary to the Tea Party push to "cut, cut, cut", most influential economists agree that spending is the sure path toward growth. The president weakens his ability to fix the economy when he repeats the unfactual rhetoric of the right. Think of government spending as a student loan for the betterment of America's future: Students must take on debt to increase their earning potential; later, after putting loan monies to good use, they will be in a position to pay down that debt. Government needs to provide more stimulus to create jobs and prosperity. Once that is achieved, we can safely deal with the debt issue.

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# THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Get better soon, Demi!

# Moore enters rehab

**Demi Moore** has entered rehab after being rushed to the hospital Monday night for an alleged prescription pill overdose, according to TMZ. Despite a frantic 911 call and an ambulance dispatched to Moore's home, the actress' reps insist Moore's trip to rehab is for "exhaustion" and nothing more. "Because of the stresses in her life right now, Demi has chosen to seek professional assistance to treat her exhaustion and improve her overall health," her reps say in a statement. "She looks forward to getting well and is grateful for the support of her family and friends."

Radar Online reports that actually, Moore had a seizure before she was rushed to the hospital and is now being treated "for anorexia, as well as other issues," a source told the site.

Meanwhile, on the same night she had her breakdown, her estranged husband, **Ashton Kutcher**, was seen partying with a bevy of beauties at a **Bruno Mars** concert in Brazil.

It's interesting, isn't it? We spend a lot of time (and editorial space) idolizing these celebrities. We're green-eyed about their wealth, beauty and success. But whoa — when they crash, they really crash. We might not be as thin or as rich, but things also don't seem to implode as spectacularly. And really, Demi. Don't let this Ashton mess bring you down. You can — and will — do better.

The ring!

## Britney is a free woman?

**Britney Spears** and fiance **Jason Trawick** are reportedly planning to get married on Valentine's Day in Maui, according to Hollyscoop. And just in time for her to tie the knot, Spears' dad is reportedly ready to end his conservatorship, which has him in control of decisions affecting her personal and professional life. "Jamie wants to go to court in early February so Britney will be a free woman in every sense when she marries," a source says, though some predict that the conservatorship will remain in effect for her business affairs.

Let's hope things continue on a steady upward climb for Spears. That conservatorship was the best thing to ever happen to her — mentally and professionally.

## The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Ricky Gervais is celebrating his fans, Victoria Beckham is snacking, Joan Rivers is not a great audience member and Denis Leary is not optimistic about relationships.

**@rickygervais:** For my 2000th tweet, I give you my favourite ever quote from a "fan" "I used to love Ricky Gervais, but he ruined Extras for me" Amazing.

**@victoriabeckham:** I'm addicted to kale!! wash, break into small pieces, sprinkle a little salt and roast, it's so good and amazing for u!!!

**@Joan_Rivers:** Cooper's 10 year-old friend Russell tries to do stand-up comedy so I do what any loving, supportive Grandma would do: I heckle the kid.

**@denisleary:** Man marries dead girlfriend. I give it 3 weeks before she says "you seem so distant."

Beckham

## Talking points

### Behind Klum's divorce decision

**Heidi Klum**'s decision to separate from husband **Seal** was apparently motivated by wanting to escape his "diva" behavior, according to Hollywood Life. "Heidi's first priority has always been her marriage, but she felt like Seal wasn't meeting her halfway," a source says. "She had to take drastic measures to show Seal she wouldn't put up with his behavior anymore. Raising happy and healthy kids is now her No. 1 priority." The source adds that divorce might not actually be inevitable at this point. "I could see Heidi threatening Seal with a divorce because he thought she would never do such a thing," the source says. "This may push Seal to finally get the help he needs to deal with his temper in a more constructive manner."

▶ Chastain received a standing ovation for her Oscar nom.

### Chastain's fashion faux pas?

**Jessica Chastain** made a bit of a fashion faux pas when she answered her mobile phone during the Armani Prive show at Paris Fashion Week, but she had a very good reason: The 30-year-old actress was receiving word of her Oscar nomination for her role in "The Help." When word spread, her fellow attendees — including **Cameron Diaz**, **Colin Firth**'s wife **Livia** and Vogue Italia Editor-in-Chief **Franca Sozzani** — gave Chastain a standing ovation.

### Paradis addresses break-up rumors

During an interview with French TV show "Le Grand Journal," **Vanessa Paradis** addressed — in a way — the rumors about her relationship with **Johnny Depp** being on the rocks. "They are all false," she says of rumors about her relationship in general. "Here, this is one [that] could hurt my family. After that ... they say that we have 52 houses in France, we separate in winter, we get married every summer. Me, I'm in my 12th pregnancy."

### Dunst's new man

**Kirsten Dunst** didn't shy away from the public displays of affection with new boyfriend **Garrett Hedlund** while hanging out at the Sundance Film Festival this week, according to People magazine. "Kirsten and Garrett have been spending time together since the holidays," a source says.

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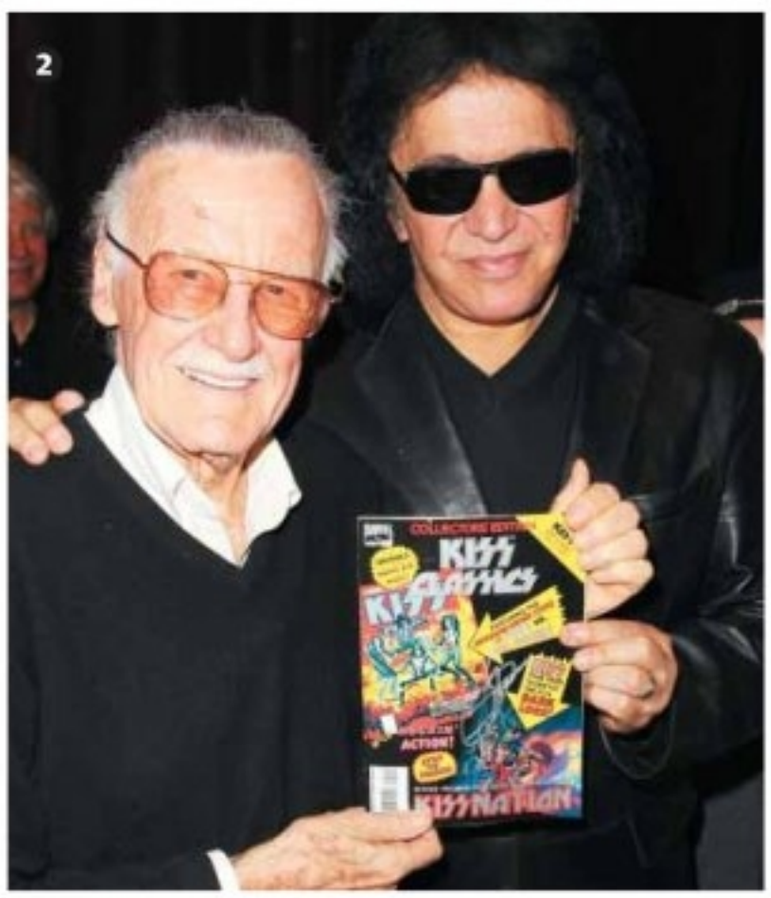


# There's nothing else going on in Hollywood besides being in Utah

**1.** While at Sundance, **Lil Jon** and skateboarder **The Dingo** showed up at the Oakley party on Sunday in Park City, Utah.

**2. Stan Lee** and **Gene Simmons** showed off a "Kiss Classics" comic book on Tuesday in Park City, Utah.

**3. Michael Fitzpatrick** of Fitz and the Tantrums performed during the "SPIN Sessions" on Monday at Sundance.

**4. Christina Hendricks** popped up at Day 4 of Nintendo 3DS Experience Lounge on Monday in Park City.

**5. Chris Rock** attended the Bing Speakers Series with the cast of "2 Days in New York" on Tuesday in Park City.

**6. Kirsten Dunst** hit up the "Bachelorette" after-party on Monday during Sundance.

**7. Anthony Mackie** looked super adorable at the SAGIndie Actors Only brunch during the film festival on Sunday in Park City.

1: MICHAEL BUNEL/WIREIMAGE
2: JOE SCARNICI/GETTY IMAGES
3, 5: MICHAEL BUCNER/GETTY IMAGES FOR BING
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Source: Scarborough R2 2010, adults 25-49, 75K+

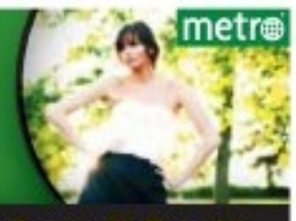

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Photo Pierre Bjork Styling Petra Tungarden & Caroline Sandstrom
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AGES 14-19

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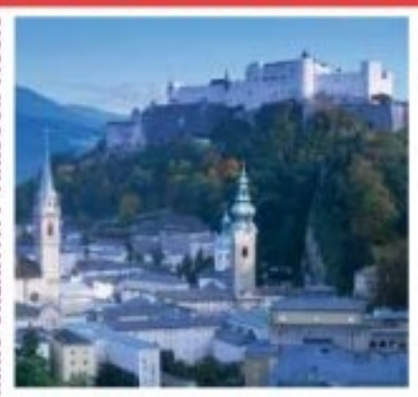

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To get more information, call 215.222.3500 or visit phillyboyschoir.org




myentertainment

# 5 Reasons to see a movie this weekend

**Must-see**

## 'The Grey'

1 Liam Neeson has been killing it with the action movies in the last few years, and his latest — a thriller about a group of unfortunate plane crash survivors stranded in rural Alaskan territory — promises to be as fittingly chilling.
METRO

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▶ Liam Neeson is ready to rumble!

**2 'Man on a Ledge'**
An ex-con (Sam Worthington) takes to the ledge of a Manhattan high-rise, claiming he was framed for a diamond heist. While a hostage negotiator (Elizabeth Banks) tries to talk him down, it becomes clear that ulterior motives are at work.

**3 'One for the Money'**
The only thing funnier than Katherine Heigl starring in a new rom-com as an unlikely bounty hunter is the fact that she wants back in on "Grey's Anatomy."

**4 'Haywire'**
Though he's known for occasionally producing headier fare, Steven Soderbergh knocks out one heck of an action film when he wants to. This time, he places mixed-martial arts fighter Gina Carano in the center of an international assassination plot in which she, the contract killer, becomes the scapegoat for the crime.

**5 'Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close'**
This 9/11 weeper won't leave many an eye dry, especially with Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock playing the parents of a precocious pre-teen, searching through the whole of New York City for a solution to a riddle.


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# Happy V-day! Love, Jon Hamm

The minute those Christmas decorations come down, inevitably, the Valentine's Day hearts and cupids go up. Singletons surely dread it, but there's a way to cheer up them and/or the "Mad Men" fetishist in your life.

JD Beebe designed the "Hamm-o-gram" (pictured here, though there are variations on the design) "to make anyone lonely on Valentines Day forget about their moody blues." For five dollars, you can have a personalized Jon Hamm card — yes, a real card not an e-card — mailed to a soon-to-be deliriously grateful recipient.

▶ Go to www.hammogram.com to order your own Hamm-o-gram for Valentine's Day.

And guess what? Not only will you be bringing the joy of hot Hamm to others, you'll also be donating to charity. Beebe explains: "I came up with the idea easily enough —Jon Hamm rhymes with gram (brilliant I know) — but I do like my silly projects to do some good. In an effort to be philanthropic and not get sued by the Hamm brigade, I chose A Giving Hand as a charity partner. This was simply because Mr. Hamm actually lost his parents at a young age — and since I couldn't find any charities that he himself donated to, I wanted to make it personal enough that he might see the good in it (if he were to see it at all)."

Everyone wins with the Hamm-o-gram. Could Charlie Day Chocolates be next?

**HEIDI PATALANO**
heidi.patalano@metro.us

## Reader love notes

Enter for a chance to win a trip to Madrid! Post your love note online at **www.metroclassifiedsus.adperfect.com**. We'll run it in print and online on Valentine's Day.

▶ *Jim — from the start life has been wonderful with you. ILYA. Bacione, Frank*
▶ ***Stoney-You Put My Love On Top! — Marlo***
*I love you Officer D! <3always Moll-Doll*
▶ ***L. J. — Being with u completed me in every way. I miss you. A.C.***
▶ *Piggy — i call you piggy bc you're pretty in pink. But your heat is pure gold. Love you shann. JonA*
▶ ***Hahnybun, you complete me! <3 Your Rose***
▶ *BG, From SF to NYC I love thee tremendously—KV*
▶ ***ADB I love u and that's a fact!***
▶ *I've found the one! MLB loves RBI (aka Sleepyhead)*
▶ ***Anthony, You are my home-run ! Love, Jessica***
▶ *To my King - great Aquarius minds think alike. MUAH ! Love you much, Nubi*
▶ ***i love u till my heart stops beating. Special K***

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## Letters

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### Reality programs ignore crucial demo

**RE: "EMILY MAYNARD IS THE CHOSEN 'BACHELORETTE'":** I'm so happy you have addressed some issues with "The Bachelor"/"Bachelorette." As an African-American woman, it is disheartening to know that my ethnic background isn't suited to be represented on this show. We have the same wants and desires as anyone else. The only shows we are given are "Flavor of Love" and "Chad Ochocino."

**CANDICE A. SMILEY, VIA E-MAIL**

### Gingrich: Ghost of Congress past

Newt Gingrich is haunting like Jacob Marley's ghost — a specter raised from the dead shackled to and dragging around the chain he forged in life: an ignominious $300,000 fine by a Republican Congress for ethics violations, an embittered ex-wife with possible toxic marital secrets, a dubious role in the disastrous housing collapse and a heavy, clamorous trail of loose-cannon shells waiting to explode.

**GLENN HAYES, VIA E-MAIL**

**"Dems seem to be unforgiving and unaccepting unless it is your own deviants at work."**

**RE: "CONSERVATIVES HAVE POISONED POLITICS":** Please note, Mr. LaRosa and the other writer who hates Mr. Gingrich, that at least Newt was man enough to ask his wife for an "open marriage" — unlike our President Clinton and candidate Mr. Edwards, who also served his wife divorce papers while she was undergoing breast cancer treatment. Dems seem to be unforgiving and unaccepting unless it is their own deviants at work. Also, I notice that Metro seems to be OK with the liberals going far beyond their requested 100-word maximum word submissions; they, too, seem to be more accepting of the liberal viewpoint. Furthermore Mr. LaRosa, you have the three stooges in office at this time: Obama, Biden and Pelosi.

**JOHN ARSLANIAN, VIA E-MAIL**

### Fact-checking must include some facts

**RE: "FACT-CHECKING AMERICA'S FACT CREATORS":** While Mr. Simms highlighted specific quotes from each of the Republican candidates and proceeded to call those statements lies, he failed to indicate his version of the truth. He could have told us why we are not headed for a Greece-type collapse. Neither side can win with sound bites. Hard facts are required for truth to be considered.

**SKIP NIELSEN, VIA E-MAIL**

Please tell me the purpose of the "fact-checking" article in today's Metro. I hate to tell you, but just saying "he lied" or "that's wrong" does not prove that anyone is lying. How about some facts to contradict the garbage the GOP candidates are spouting?

**ANDY NELSON, VIA E-MAIL**

Will you do any fact-checking on our president's State of the Union address? Treat both sides fairly.

**PETER MOL, VIA E-MAIL**

Metro's promoted that nitwit social pigmy, Brayden Simms, to be its political analysis. Metro is wholly committed to biased political commentary to the point of being corrupt.

**JOHN BOVINSKI, MANAYUNK**

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## Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Unfortunately, you're not suited for the role of being a borrower or a lender. Putting yourself in either position could put you behind the eight ball.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Even though you might solicit advice from several people, it isn't likely you will follow anyone's suggestions. You'll still erroneously do things as you initially intended.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Be both realistic and sensible about any of your physical limitations. For example: If you attempt to lift something that is far too heavy, you'll suffer the consequences.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Unless you're careful about how you conduct yourself when mixing with society, you'll be in way over your head. A slip of the tongue will get blown out of proportion.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't take your luck for granted when the stakes are higher than usual. Chances are you'll miscalculate and take others down with you when it's time to pay the piper.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Even if you've done something that is considered to be quite outstanding, subdue temptation to boast about it. Praise will sound a lot better coming from an impressed observer.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** There are a lot of sticky fingers out there, so be extra watchful of your possessions — especially the stuff you keep in your car. Don't walk away.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Your thinking about a personal situation is apt to be right on the money, but that doesn't mean you can make judgment calls for others. You could be way off track.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** In situations where you are hoping to get more in return than you put out, you're likely to be greatly disappointed. There are no free rides in this economy.

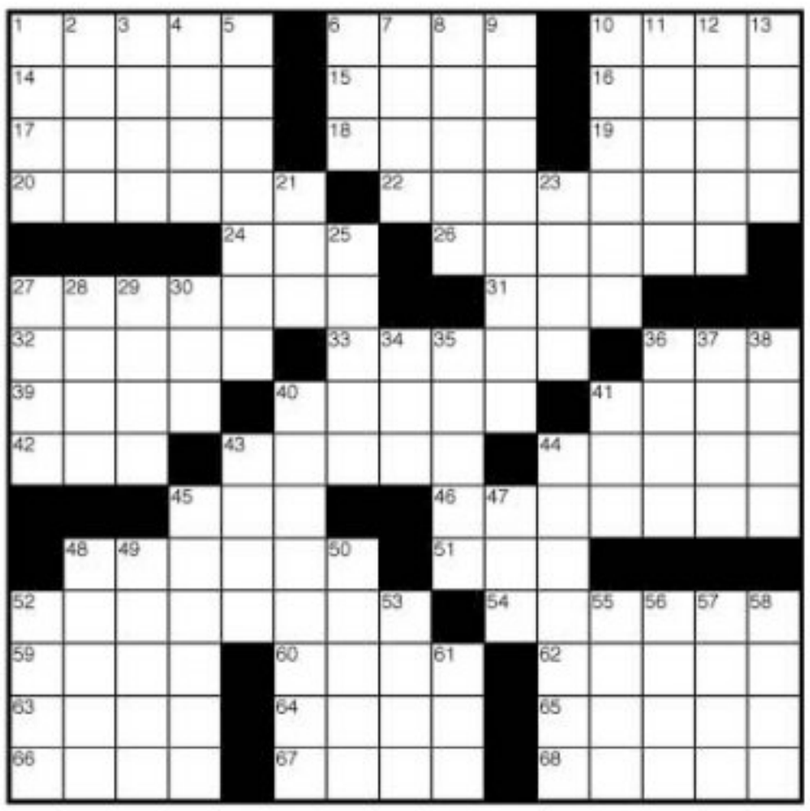
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** When invited to a social gathering at a friend's house, don't overstay your visit. Even if you're one of the late arrivals, be sure you're among those who know when to leave.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Guard against a strong inclination to blame a mistake that you make on another who was trying to help you out. Avoid at all costs doing anything that could make your friend feel used and unappreciated.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Be smart and refrain from entering into a conversation with a friend who feels just as strongly about his or her opposing point of view as you do about yours. Both parties would lose out. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

**Across**
1 Usefulness
6 Pate de foie __
10 Outstanding amount
14 Horse or soap __
15 Volkswagen kin
16 Axiom
17 Warren of "Dillinger"
18 Arrogant person
19 Hieroglyphics bird
20 Rains ice
22 Half-eagles, half-lions
24 911 responder
26 Happy
27 Rake in the money (2 wds.)
31 Classified section
32 Tibetan monks
33 Banded stone
36 College stat
39 Tune for a diva
40 Sibling's daughter
41 Sudden ouster
42 Impair
43 Ocean crosser
44 Formal ball
45 Drag along
46 Surfaced
48 Fork parts
51 Thus, in citations
52 Rounded up cattle
54 "Kubla Khan" locale
59 Helper
60 Goddess's statue
62 Broad valleys
63 Shiny wrap
64 Billionth, in combos
65 Ms. Lauder
66 Gridder __ Aikman
67 Troublesome bug
68 Bargain-hunts

**Down**
1 Romances
2 Translucent gem
3 Solar plexus
4 Leaf shedder
5 Expedites
6 Exxon product
7 Ladder part
8 Light incense to
9 Hiss
10 Snowbanks
11 Jazzman __ Blake
12 Like some alleys
13 Hardy heroine
21 The Mustangs
23 Wash out
25 Goya's home
27 Chowder bit
28 Superman's mom
29 Omani title
30 Battery size
34 Command to a horse
35 Field units
36 Percussion instrument
37 Brownish-purple
38 Mimicked
40 Trivial
41 Wheels, so to speak
43 Gill alternative
44 Century fractions
45 Eager for company
47 Mingle
48 Earlier
49 AM or FM
50 4-door model
52 Blow gently
53 Portuguese lady
55 "Candy is dandy" poet
56 A type of saxophone
57 Intense
58 Functions
61 Place to park



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | | 7 | | 1 | | 6 | 2 |
| | | | 3 | 6 | | | 7 | |
| | 1 | | 2 | | | 8 | | |
| | 3 | 7 | | | | | | 9 |
| | 6 | | | 2 | | | 8 | |
| 8 | | | | | | 7 | 5 | |
| | | 2 | | | 3 | | 1 | |
| | 7 | | | 4 | 2 | | | |
| 5 | 4 | | 6 | | 8 | | 3 | |

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | | | 5 | | 8 | | |
| 8 | | 9 | | 1 | | | | |
| 2 | 7 | | | | 3 | | | 6 |
| 1 | | 7 | | 2 | | 5 | | |
| | 4 | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | 8 | | 4 | | 6 | | 7 |
| 7 | | | 6 | | | | 8 | 5 |
| | | | | 7 | | 1 | | 9 |
| | | 4 | | 9 | | | | 2 |

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

**Solution to yesterday's crossword**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | D | G | E | ■ | R | A | N | I | ■ | P | A | R | E | R |
| T | E | R | M | ■ | A | T | E | N | ■ | E | M | O | T | E |
| C | L | U | B | ■ | C | R | T | S | ■ | A | M | A | T | I |
| H | I | B | A | C | H | I | ■ | T | A | L | O | N | E | D |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | H | E | A | R | ■ | D | E | N | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| C | H | I | S | E | L | ■ | O | X | I | D | I | Z | E | D |
| R | E | D | Y | E | ■ | I | S | E | E | ■ | A | I | D | A |
| A | L | E | ■ | R | E | V | E | N | U | E | ■ | L | I | I |
| F | I | A | T | ■ | M | A | T | A | ■ | L | I | L | T | S |
| T | O | L | E | R | A | N | T | ■ | G | L | O | S | S | Y |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | Q | U | I | ■ | E | A | R | E | D | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| R | E | B | U | I | L | D | ■ | B | O | N | A | N | Z | A |
| A | G | A | I | N | ■ | E | C | H | O | ■ | T | O | O | L |
| T | A | B | L | E | ■ | P | R | O | V | ■ | E | G | O | S |
| S | N | E | A | D | ■ | T | O | R | E | ■ | D | O | M | O |

**How to play Sudoku:** Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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# Sixers suffer rare home loss to Nets

## Williams wins battle of point guards ◗ Team sorely missing Hawes, Vucevic ◗ Sixers second loss at WFC

Deron Williams got the best of Jrue Holiday this time.

In a match between All-Star and emerging star, Williams exploded for a game-high 34 points — and 11 assists — last night as the lowly Nets beat the Sixers, 97-90, in overtime. Holiday struggled and finished with 14 points while shooting 5-of-13 from the floor.

The Sixers (12-6) were paced by Lou Williams' 17 points, with Elton Brand adding 16. The team trailed much of the night, but stormed back in the fourth quarter before the game went into overtime. However, the Nets (6-13) outscored the Sixers 15-8 in the extra frame and walked off the Wells Fargo Center court as winners, only the second team to do that so far this season.

The Sixers were without starting center Spencer Hawes and rookie backup Nikola Vucevic. Tony Battie started and 6-foot-9 rookie Lavoy Allen saw extended playing time for the third straight game. Allen scored six points and collected two rebounds in 18 minutes. Still, the Sixers couldn't make up for a lack of size in the paint and were outrebounded, 45-37, by New Jersey. Kris Humphries led the Nets with a game-high 19 rebounds.

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**The Sixers are now 8-2 at the Wells Fargo Center this season.** They don't hit the road again until Feb. 4.

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▶ Jordan Farmar looks to get around Lou Williams last night. Williams finished with a team-high 17 points for the Sixers.


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# Green with envy? Former Sixer reflects on Philly

Every time Willie Green returns to the Wells Fargo Center, he sees so many familiar faces.

He remembers each security guard's name. He stops in the Sixers' locker room to say hello to all his old friends.

Last weekend, Green arrived in town with his new team, the Atlanta Hawks. The Sixers dismantled the Hawks, 90-76, though Green was solid with 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting, including a pair of three-pointers.

Green signed with the Hawks as a free agent on Dec. 22. He played his first seven seasons with the Sixers before being traded (Sept. 23, 2010) to New Orleans, along with Jason Smith, for Craig Brackins and Darius Songaila.

"It's been a couple years now since I left, and I still enjoy coming back to see all the friendly faces here," said Green, who was drafted No. 41 overall in the 2003 NBA draft by the Seattle SuperSonics. "I had a lot of good memories here in Philadelphia. I was fortunate to have that dream of playing in the NBA and I'm still lucky to still be living that dream."

The Hawks are a team on the rise. Entering last night's action, Atlanta (13-5) held the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference. But so are the Sixers, something Green anticipated.

"I saw it coming, especially after last season," Green said. "It's a credit to the coaching staff. It's a credit to the players working hard to build on what they did last season. This is not an easy place to come in and get a win right now. I think this team has a tremendous upside."

ANDY JASNER
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▶ Green is averaging 6.4 points per game this season.

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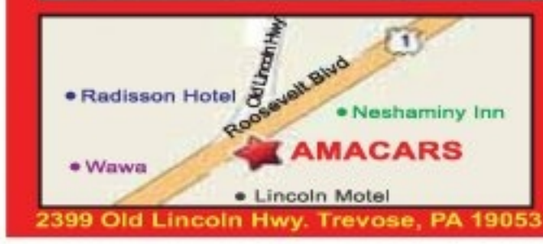


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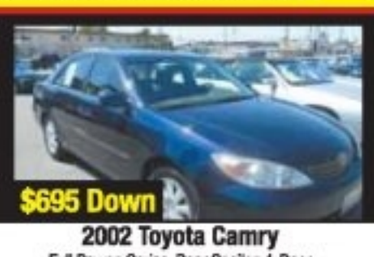

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Time: 10:30am Date: Friday, February 17th, 2012 Place: 3100 C St Philadelphia, PA

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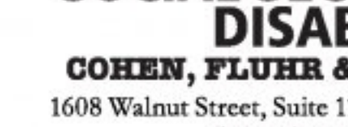


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Time: 1:00PM Date: February 16th,2012 Place: 7600 Queen St, Glenside PA

**1227 Staldings Frederick** **1419 Rosalind Applewhite** **2300 Paul Benjamin Jr** **2444 Marcita A Davenport**
**1411 Stacey Nettles** **2119 Nicole Vetter** **2341 Erwin Morris** **2536 Lisa Mengucci**
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Time: 3:00pm Date: February 17th, 2012 Place: 2990 S 20th St

PK1 Ron Hawkins
1193 Davis, Alexandria
1717 Collick , Ella Jerome
1820 Longo, Francis
1279 heather reed-dartouet
1212 Silver, Orande
1222 Monichael, Bryant
1117 Saundra Taylor
1140 James, Edward
1052 Brinson, Ayasha
1046 Terry, Tera
1433A Lawton, Cynthia
1255 Ernestine Barnett
1033 Edward ryder
1457 Clayton, Melanie
1748 Dash, Anthony
1816 Schulz, Samantha
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1755 Torres, John
1803 Torres, John
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Time: 12:30pm Date: February 17th, 2012 Place: 5134 Lancaster Ave Philadelphia, PA

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**128 Donna Parker** **4010 Roxanne Jackson** **1183 Lateefah Brown**
**1075 Aiesha Grace Lawrence** **113 Allen Chestnut** **1001 Margaret Hunter**
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Time: 2:30pm Date: Thursday, February 16th, 2012 Place: 335 E Price St Philadelphia PA, 19144

**1085 Latoya Knight** **1206 Venitia McNeill** **2036 Adia Holt**
**1122 Shianisha Johnson-Knowles** **1240 Sharon R Tyson** **2095 Justin Bryant**

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Valdez is headed to Cincinnati.

# Phillies unload utility stud Valdez to Reds

Utility infielder Wilson Valdez was traded yesterday to the Cincinnati Reds in exchange for left-handed relief pitcher Jeremy Horst, according to Phillies GM Ruben Amaro, Jr.

Valdez, 33, played a vital fill-in role for the Phillies over the past seasons as starting shortstop Jimmy Rollins and third baseman Placido Polanco battled nagging injuries. He batted .249 in 2011 with one home run and 30 RBIs in 99 games. He also picked up a win on the mound in an unforgettable relief appearance in extra innings on May 25 against Cincinnati.

Horst, 26, spent much of last season at Triple-A Louisville, but still managed to go 0-0 with a 2.93 ERA in 12 big-league appearances. He was selected in the 21st round of the 2007 draft and will be a non-roster invite to Phillies spring training.

The Phils' roster stands at 38 players. METRO


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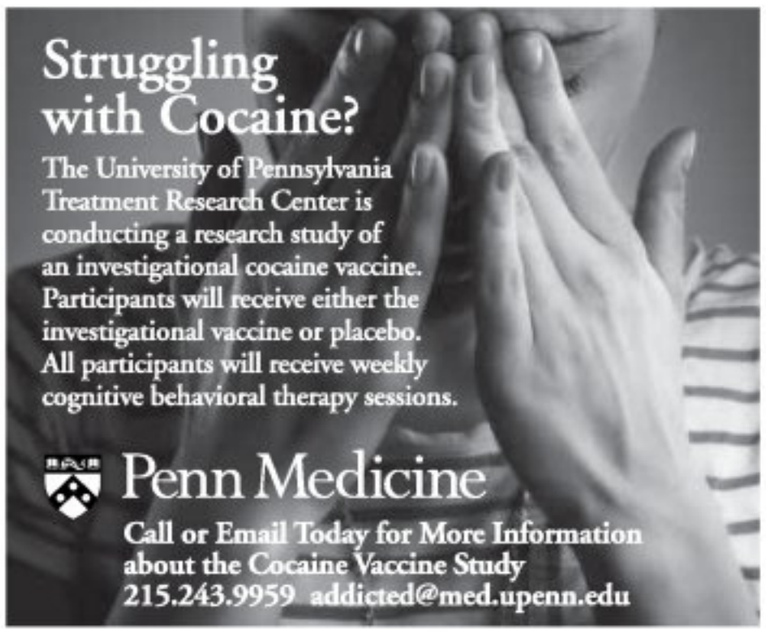
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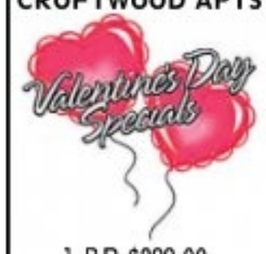


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